

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8994
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MASERU 1585

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, LT
SUBJECT: UN SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS, MASERU, JULY 17-22, 1978

REF: STATE 184470,

1. FOLLOWING ARE PRELIMINARY DRAFT CONCLUSIONS THAT WILL BE PUT IN FINAL DRAFT TODAY FOR PRESENTATION AND ENDORSEMENT BY SYMPOSIUM TOMORROW (JULY 22). DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED WITH RESPECT TO POSITION U.S. PARTICIPANT SHOULD ADOPT CONCERNING CONCLUSIONS. DEPT'S ATTENTION IS DIRECTED IN PARTICULAR TO DRAFT CONCLUSION NUMBER SEVEN WHICH TAKES FORM OF A RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION TO END ECONOMIC COLLABORATION WITH SA INCLUDING WITHHOLDING CREDITS AND FUTURE INVESTMENT. BELIEVE WE HAVE SUBSTANCE OF U.S. POSITION ON THIS ITEM IN REFTEL BUT DEPT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE AS TO SPECIFIC ACTION IF ANY. LATTER REQUIRED OOB SATURDAY, JULY 22. WE BELIEVE U.S.SHOULD JOIN

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CONSENSUS TO ENDORSE REMAINING CONCLUSIONS WITHOUT CHANGE.

2. DRAFTING COMMITTEE IS IN SESSION TODAY TO PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS AS WELL AS FINAL REPORT. HOPE TO HAVE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS BY DAY'S END. WILL SEND IMMEDIATE IN HOPE OF HAVING DEPT'S GUIDANCE BY OOB TOMORROW. PLEASE REPEAT REPLY TO MBABANE FOR AMBASSADOR NORLAND.

AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOCIETY IN SOUTH AFRICA BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND ON THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT ONLY COULD RESOLVE THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT COULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORLD AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

4. QTE THE SYMPOSIUM RECOGNIZED THE URGENT NEED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO MAKE A SOLEMN COMMITMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NON-RACIAL SOCIETY IN SOUTH AFRICA GUARANTEEING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE, EXPRESSION, ASSOCIATION AND MOVEMENT TO ALL THE PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE, COLOR OR CREED.

5. QTE THE SYMPOSIUM FURTHER RECOGNIZED THAT, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR PROCLAIMED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CONCRETE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY BY GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS TO EFFECT A CHANGE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT WILL BRING ABOUT THE REALIZATION OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE BLACK PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA AND WILL BRING AN END TO THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OPPRESSION INHERENT IN THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID.

6. QTE THE SYMPOSIUM NOTES THAT THE ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF THE BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA IS BY NATURE THE DIRECT RESULT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SYSTEM OF APARTHEID AND THE SERIES OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS ENACTED TO CONTROL THE DAILY LIFE OF THE AFRICAN WORKER IN ORDER TO DEHUMANIZE HIM AND RESTRICT HIM TO THE ROLE OF SOLEY PROVIDING HIS LABOR.

7. QTE IT FURTHER NOTED THAT THE DENIAL OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS, THE APPLICATION OF THE MIGRANT LABOR SYSTEM AND THE JOB RESERVATION SYSTEM, THE DIFFERENTIAL WAGE STRUCTURES FOR WHITES AND BLACKS AND THE POOR CONDITIONS OF WORK, ALL ADD UP TO THE INEVITABLE EXPLOITATION OF THE AFRICAN WORKER AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FAMILY STRUCTURE.

8. QTE WHILE CONSIDERING THE QUESTION OF MIGRANT LABOR, THE SYMPOSIUM TOOK NOTE ESPECIALLY OF THE PROBLEM AS IT AFFECTS THE ECONOMIES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND ENDORSED THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON MIGRATORY LABOR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HELD IN LUSAKA FROM 4 TO 8 APRIL 1978. IT FURTHER SUPPORTED THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO "CONSIDER AS A MATTER OF EXTREME URGENCY AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS.

9. QTE THE SYMPOSIUM RECOGNIZED THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF ECONOMIC

RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS A COGENT ELEMENT OF THE ECONOMY OF SOUTH AFRICA WHICH HELPS THE APARTHEID REGIME TO CONTINUE ITS EXPLOITATION OF BLACK WORKERS. IT THEREFORE CONSIDERED THAT URGENT ACTION BE TAKEN BY ALL GOVERNMENTS TO END SUCH ECONOMIC COLLABORATION AND AS A FIRST STEP TO WITHHOLD ANY NEW LOANS AND INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

10. QTE THE SYMPOSIUM NOTED THAT THE APARTHEID REGIME CONTINUES ITS BRUTAL REPRESSION OF THE BLACK PEOPLE AND OF ALL OPPONENTS OF APARTHEID. IT NOTED THE GROWING LIST OF DETAINEES WHO HAVE DIED MYSTERIOUSLY IN JAIL, THE VARIOUS METHODS OF TORTURE AND MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS DURING DETENTION AND THE DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS OF THE PRISONS PARTICULARLY THAT OF ROBBEN ISLAND.

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11. QTE THE SYMPOSIUM RECOGNIZED THAT AN END TO SOUTH AFRICA'S REPRESSION AND THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

12. QTE THE SYMPOSIUM RECOGNIZED THAT A CORNERSTONE OF THE APARTHEID SYSTEM WAS THE SUPPRESSION OF IDEAS AND THE DEPRIVATION OF THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLACK PEOPLE. IT FURTHER RECOGNIZED THAT THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IS REPLEAT WITH INADEQUACIES AND INEQUITIES. THIS SITUATION COUPLED WITH THE FORCED SEPARATION OF FAMILIES AS A RESULT OF THE MIGRANT LABOR SYSTEM CONTRIBUTE TO THE DETERIORATION OF NORMAL CULTURAL GROWTH.

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STOKES

3. QTE THE SYMPOSIUM RECOGNIZED THAT THE ERADICATION OF APARTHEID

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